AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 14 of page 25 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 24 shows another embodiment of the cam mechanism in which the three cam grooves C17f1, C17f2 and C17f3 of the front cam-groove group are positioned at regular intervals (intervals of 120 degrees) in the circumferential direction of the cam/helicoid ring 12, and also the cam grooves C17r1, C17r2 and C17r3 of the rear cam-groove group are positioned at regular intervals (intervals of 120 degrees) in the circumferential direction of the cam/helicoid ring 12. In addition, the distance between the cam grooves C17f1 and C17r1 of the first groove/follower group in the optical axis direction, the distance between the cam grooves C17f2 and C17r2 of the second groove/follower group in the optical axis direction and the distance between the cam grooves C17f3 and C17r3 of the third groove/follower group in the optical axis direction are mutually different. Additionally, the widths of the cam grooves C17f1 and C17r1 are different from each other, the widths of the cam grooves C17f2 and C17r2 are different from each other, and the widths of the cam grooves C17f3 and C17r3 are different from each other. Furthermore, the width of the front cam groove C17f2 of the second groove/follower group is smaller than the width of the rear cam groove C17r2 of the second groove/follower group while the width of the front cam groove C17f3 of the third groove/follower group is smaller than the width of the rear cam groove C17r3 of the third groove/follower group, whereas the width of the front cam groove ~~C17f3~~ C17f1 of the ~~third~~ first groove/follower group is greater than the width of the rear cam groove ~~C17r3~~

C17r1 of the ~~third~~ first groove/follower group. Namely, the width relationship between the front and rear cam grooves in one of the three groove/follower groups is opposite to the width relationship between the front and rear cam grooves in either one of the remaining two groove/follower groups.